

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Julia Butler Hanson Refuge
for the Columbia White-tailed Deer
<http://www.fws.gov/pacific>

News Release



For Release on August 13, 2010

Contacts: Joel David, 360-795-3915
Charlie Stenvall, 360-484-3482

Final Planning Documents for Southwest Washington Refuges Available

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is announcing the availability of the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge and Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS). The CCP/ EIS was developed to provide guidance for the management of these refuges over the next 15 years.

The CCP/ EIS was developed to provide scientifically grounded guidance for improving the refuges' habitats for the long-term conservation of migratory birds and native plants and animals. The document identifies actions for protecting and sustaining the refuges' natural resources, including habitats, migratory bird populations and threatened, endangered, or rare species. Opportunities for priority public use programs – hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography and environmental education and interpretation are also identified in the plan.

The CCP/EIS is available at the following websites: <http://www.fws.gov/lc>; <http://www.fws.gov/gpv/jbh>; and <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning>. It is also available at the Blanch Bradley Library, Astoria Public Library, Clatskanie Library District, Ilwaco Timberline Regional Library, Longview Public Library, and Fort Vancouver Regional Library.

To inquire about the long-term management plan contact Charlie Stenvall, Project Leader, Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 3888 SR 101, Ilwaco, WA 98624; fax number (360) 484-3109; or e-mail FW1PlanningComments@fws.gov.

The Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer was established in 1972 to protect and manage the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer. The refuge contains over 6,000 acres of pastures, forested tidal swamps, brushy woodlots, marshes and sloughs along the Columbia River in both Washington and Oregon. The refuge's habitat also benefits a large variety of wintering birds, a small herd of Roosevelt elk, river otter, various reptiles and amphibians including painted turtles and red-legged frogs, and several pairs of nesting bald eagles and ospreys.

The Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge includes approximately 20 islands stretching over 27

miles of the Columbia River, from the mouth upstream nearly to Skamakowa, Washington. Established in 1972 to preserve the vital fish and wildlife habitat of the Columbia River estuary, the refuge includes tidal sand flats, marshes, forested swamps and upland pasture. This combination ? These habitats support large numbers of waterfowl, gulls, terns, wading birds, shorebirds, and a wide variety of raptors and songbirds. The Lewis and Clark islands are only accessible by boat.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.